

REMARKS

Claims 1-55 are pending in the instant application. Claims 1-23 and 53-55 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Claims 1-23 and 54 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101. Claims 1-2, 4, 6-17, 19-20, 22-24, 26-39, 41-42, 44-46, 48-51, and 52-55 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Carpentier et al. (US 6,807,632). Claims 18, 21, 40, and 43 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Carpentier et al. in view of Hart et al. (US 6,957,221). Claims 18, 21, 40, and 43 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Carpentier et al. in view of alleged Admitted Prior Art. Claims have been amended and allowance of all pending claims is requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph

In paragraph 2 on pp. 2-3 of the August 23, 2006 office action, the examiner asserts that claims 1-23 and 53-55 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Claim 1 has been amended to define the invention more clearly. In particular, amendments have been made to more clearly identify the first and second schema metadata, and the first and second reference reduced representation. In response to the Examiner's objection under 35 USC 112, the reference to 'the primary application' in the second limitation has been amended to 'a primary application'.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 101

On page 3 of the August 23, 2006 office action, the examiner asserts that claims 1-23 and 53-55 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101. The Examiner rejected the above claims asserting that the preamble of these computer data project claims do not properly recite a statutory invention under 35 U.S.C. 101. While the Applicants do not accept the Examiner's assertion, the Applicants has been amended claim 1 to overcome the objections raised by the Examiner under 35 USC 101. In particular, the term 'computer implemented' has been inserted.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

Claims 1-2, 4, 6-17, 19-20, 22-24, 26-39, 41-42, 44-46, 48-51, and 52-55 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Carpentier et al. (US 6,807,632). Claims 1,

24 and 46 have been amended to define the invention more clearly. In particular, the schema metadata has been defined to show that it is representative of a database structure. Further, the feature of the comparison of the reduced representations providing an indication of the integrity of the second application (database) has been included.

Claim 2 has been amended to provide the correct antecedent basis for the term database due to the amendments made to claim 1.

Claims 8 and 9 have been amended in line with the amendments made to claim 1.

Claims 53 and 54 have been cancelled.

The independent claims of the present application include the feature of comparing first and second reduced representations of schema metadata representative of a database structure.

Carpentier et al. does not disclose this feature.

The Examiner asserts that this feature is anticipated based on the disclosure in Carpentier et al. at Col. 5, lines 58-60.

“There is no restriction on the data, meta data or file system structure that can be stored and referenced by an e-CLIP.”

It is further noted that an e-CLIP may represent a file, a group of files, a group of file identifiers, or other collections of data or database information.

This disclosure is merely a generalisation statement that only suggests that the method can be applied to various metadata and not that any type of metadata is encompassed by the statement. There is no specific disclosure of metadata in the context of schema metadata. Further, there is no disclosure or implication within Carpentier of schema metadata representative of a database structure.

The term “metadata” in Carpentier et al. should be construed in context. The purpose of the e-CLIP in Carpentier et al. is to identify data files accurately using either actual data,

which is hashed and placed in a descriptor file, or by using metadata to uniquely identify data files, said metadata then being placed in a descriptor file for hashing at a later date. The metadata includes the date/time recorded for the creation or last modification of the data files, the file name associated with the data file and "other information" (Col.1, lines 42-44). "Other information" can only be construed as meaning metadata that can be used to identify the file in order for Carpentier et al. to carry out its intended purpose.

It is not possible to identify specific data files merely by looking at the schema metadata. The schema metadata provides descriptive data that explains how the structure of an application is arranged regardless of the actual data stored therein. That is, if an e-CLIP were to hold schema metadata it could not determine anything about the data within the data files, and so could not determine how to reproduce or compare that data.

Carpentier et al. does not teach how portions of a data asset relating to database structure rather than data content can be used to compare data assets. In fact, Carpentier et al. teaches away from using schema metadata at col. 13, lines 44-51 by stating that their system is content addressable and that identifiers that are not content addressable may be readily spoofed.

Col 10, lines 7-10 disclose metadata associated with each asset and metadata about the assets, but does not include metadata about schema. That is, the metadata in Carpentier et al. is used to identify an asset, i.e. data in a file and not a database structure.

Further, references to directory structures and file system structures within Carpentier et al. are not the same as schema metadata representative of a database structure. Directory structures and file system structures in Carpentier et al. are used to allow the system to rebuild and store data files in the same directory structure thus allowing users to access correct files using previously used addressing mechanisms. That is, the same addressing path may be used to access certain data files once they have been rebuilt. Whereas, schema metadata does not provide an addressing path but includes in its meaning descriptive data that describes the plan of a database, such as information on tables, columns in tables, datatypes of columns, lengths of columns, custom database data types, foreign keys, constraints, stored procedures, views, triggers, indices and scheduled jobs.

Therefore, the feature of schema metadata representative of a database structure is not disclosed or implied within Carpentier et al. Indeed, Carpentier et al. is designed to operate in directly the opposite manner of the present invention by providing a means to accurately transfer, obtain and verify individual data files, whereas the present invention is only interested in verifying the schema of the database rather than any data stored within.

Further, Carpentier et al. does not disclose nor imply the feature of providing an indication of the integrity of a second application (database). Nor does Carpentier et al. disclose the feature of controlling a primary application based on said indication. This feature as claimed in the present invention provides a unique way of assessing the schema structure of a database prior to querying the database in order to ensure that the application requesting the database information does not encounter problems during the query.

We therefore assert that the currently filed claims are not disclosed or suggested in Carpentier et al.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 18, 21, 40, and 43 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Carpentier et al. in view of Hart et al. (US 6,957,221). Claims 18 and 21 depend from independent claim 1 and further distinguish the claimed invention from Carpentier et al. Claims 40 and 43 depend from independent claim 24 and further distinguish the claimed invention from Carpentier et al. Hart et al. and all of the other prior art of record fail to overcome the deficiencies of Carpentier et al. as discussed above with respect to claims 1 and 24 respectively. As such, all of these dependent claims are patentable over the prior art of record for at least the reasons set forth above.

Claims 3, 5, 25, and 47 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Carpentier et al. in view of alleged Admitted Prior Art. In response to the Office Action, amendments have been made to claim 3 in line with the amendments made to claim 1. In addition, claims 3 and 5 depend from independent claim 1 and further distinguish the claimed invention from Carpentier et al. Claims 25 and 47 depend from independent claim 24 and further distinguish the claimed invention from Carpentier et al. The Alleged Admitted Prior Art and all of the other prior art of record fail to overcome the deficiencies of Carpentier et

al. as discussed above with respect to claims 1 and 24 respectively. As such, all of these dependent claims are patentable over the prior art of record for at least the reasons set forth above.

CONCLUSION

Based on all these considerations and amendment, the applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the claims. If any issues remain that preclude issuance of this application, the Examiner is again urged to contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully Submitted,

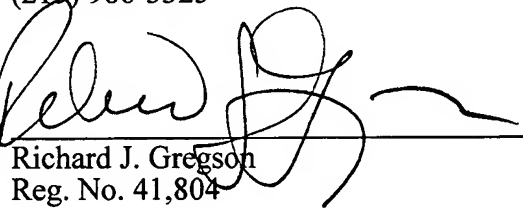
DAMON GERARD van OPDORP

By his attorneys,

UNISYS CORPORATION
Unisys Way, MS/E8-114
Blue Bell, PA 19424
(215) 986-3325

Date: 11 Oct 2006

By


Richard J. Gregson
Reg. No. 41,804